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Kook-Heui Lee

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EXAMINER

GU, YU

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/561,232 | Applicant(s) LEE ET AL. | |
| | Examiner YU (Andy) GU | Art Unit 2617 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Applicant's amendment, filed on 5/4/2009, has been entered and carefully considered. Claims 1-16 have been amended. Claim 17 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-17 are pending.

2. In light of Applicant's amendment, rejections of claims 2, 5-12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, were withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

4. **Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 20040157640 A1 Pirskanen et al. (hereinafter Pirskanen). Regarding **claim 1** (currently amended), Pirskanen *discloses a method for initiating uplink signaling proactively by a UE receiving a multimedia multicast/broadcast service (MBMS), the UE receiving information over a MBMS control channel, the method* (see at least paragraph [0005]) *comprising steps of:*

- *listening the MBMS control channel* (see at least paragraph [0011] and [0014], where Pirskanen discloses the CELL_FACH mode, a state well known in the art in which a UE listens to a common control channel; the CELL_PCH mode, a state well known in the art in which a UE listens to a paging channel; and the CELL_DCH mode, a state well known in the art in which a UE listens to a dedicated control channel);

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- *initiating an uplink signaling* (e.g. MBMS Group Membership Report) *according to the information* (e.g. MBMS notification “Counting”) received over the MBMS control channel (see at least Figure 2 item 6 and 7 and paragraph [0054]-[0055]);
- and receiving a response message (e.g. the MBMS notification “Counting Stopped”) in response to said uplink signaling; (see at least Figure 2 item 7 and paragraph [0057], where Pirskanen disclose the notification “Counting Stopped” as being responsive to receiving the MBMS Group Membership Report);

Pirskanen does not specifically disclose if the UE moves into a new cell as the pre-condition for the above steps. However, it is well known in the art that MBMS UEs travel between cells that support its mobility, and in view of Pirskanen alluding to the need to count for number of UEs joined a particular cell (see at least paragraph [0007]). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to initiate the steps taught by Pirskanen, when the UE joins the new cell, in order to determine the number of MBMS UEs associated with the new cell.

Pirskanen further discloses if the UE does not move into the new cell: (i.e. the UE stays in the current cell it receives the information from), *initiating an uplink signaling* (e.g. MBMS Group membership report) *proactively by the UE if the information received over the MBMS control channel includes an indication* (e.g. Figure 2 item 6-MBMS notification “Counting”) *for UE counting* (see at least Figure 2 item 6 and 7); *and receiving a response message* (e.g. the MBMS notification “Counting Stopped”) in response to said uplink signaling (see at least Figure 2 item 8 and paragraph [0057]).

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Regarding **claim 2** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1**. Pirskanen further discloses:

- *wherein the information received over the MBMS control channel comprises at least one of an indication for point-to-point channel (i.e. in CELL_DCH mode, a dedicated control channel i.e. a point-to-point channel) used by the MBMS, an indication that there is no information for the MBMS on the MBMS control channel (i.e. in CELL_PCH mode in which no information is received when no calls/notifications are designated for a UE), and indication that the UE doesn't receive information (i.e. in CELL_PCH mode in which no information is received when no calls/notifications are designated for a UE) on the MBMS control channel (see at least paragraph [0011] and [0014]).*

Regarding **claim 3** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1**. Pirskanen further discloses:

- *wherein said UE is in CELL_FACH, CELL_PCH or URA_PCH mode (see at least paragraph [0011] and [0014]).*

Regarding **claim 5** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1**. Pirskanen further discloses:

- *wherein modes that said UE may be in comprises the UE in IDLE mode (see at least paragraph [0006] and [0008]).*

Regarding **claim 6** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1** or **5**. Pirskanen further discloses:

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- wherein for the UE in IDLE mode, a message included in said uplink signaling is an RRC (radio resource control) Connection Request message (see at least paragraph [0017]).

Regarding **claim 17** (new), Pirskanen discloses *a multimedia multicast/broadcast service (MBMS) user equipment (UE) for initiating uplink signaling proactively, the UE receiving information over a MBMS control channel, the UE comprising:*

- *a receiver listening to the MBMS control channel* (see at least paragraph [0011] and [0014], where Pirskanen discloses the CELL_FACH mode, a state well known in the art in which a UE listens to a common control channel; the CELL_PCH mode, a state well known in the art in which a UE listens to a paging channel; and the CELL_DCH mode, a state well known in the art in which a UE listens to a dedicated control channel) *and receiving a response message* (e.g. MBMS notification "Counting Stopped") *in response to an uplink signaling* (e.g. MBMS Membership Report) (see at least paragraph [0055]-[0057]);

Pirskanen further discloses a controller (e.g. as inherent component the UE), and that the UE *initiating an uplink signaling* (e.g. MBMS Group Membership Report) *according to the information* (e.g. MBMS notification "Counting") *received over the MBMS control channel* (see at least Figure 2 item 6 and 7 and paragraph [0054]-[0055]). Pirskanen does not specifically disclose *if the UE moves into a new cell* as the pre-condition for the above steps. However, it is well known in the art that MBMS UEs travel between cells that support its mobility, and in view of Pirskanen alluding to the need to count for number of UEs joined a particular cell (see at least paragraph [0007]). It would have

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been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to initiate the steps taught by Pirskanen, when the UE joins the new cell, in order to determine the number of MBMS UEs associated with the new cell.

Pirskanen further discloses *if the UE does not move into the new cell: (i.e. the UE stays in the current cell it receives the information from), the controller initiate the uplink signaling (e.g. MBMS Group membership report) proactively by the UE if the information received over the MBMS control channel includes an indication (e.g. Figure 2 item 6-MBMS notification "Counting") for UE counting (see at least Figure 2 item 6 and 7); and receiving a response message (e.g. the MBMS notification "Counting Stopped") in response to said uplink signaling (see at least Figure 2 item 8 and paragraph [0057]).*

5. **Claims 4 and 9** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirskanen in view of US 20030236085 A1 Ho (hereinafter Ho).

Regarding **claim 4** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1** or **3**. Pirskanen does not specifically disclose *wherein for the UE that is in CELL_FACH, CELL_PCH or URA_PCH mode, a message included in said uplink signaling is a Cell Update message*. However, in a related field of endeavor, Ho discloses a cell update message sent by a UE (see at least Ho paragraph [0014]) as part of a periodical cell update procedure. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view of Ho in order for the UE to exchange information with the network.

Regarding **claim 9** (currently amended), Pirskanen and Ho discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1** or **3**, and **4**. Pirskanen further discloses that the

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number of UEs associated with a service is used in the determination of whether to use a PTP channel or a PTM channel (i.e. *MBMS channel parameters*) for communication with the UE. Pirskanen does not specifically disclose *wherein the value for the field named "Reason for cell update" in the Cell Update message is set as "For MBMS UE counting"*. However, in a related field of endeavor, Ho discloses a cell update message sent by a UE (see at least Ho paragraph [0014]) as part of a periodical cell update procedure. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view of Ho to set the reason for cell update message as *"For MBMS UE counting"* in order to facilitate the reporting of the numbers of UEs associated with the network.

6. **Claims 7-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirskanen in view of Ho, and further in view of US 6782274 B1 Park et al. (hereinafter Park).

Regarding **claim 7** (currently amended), Pirskanen and Ho disclose the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1** or **3**, and **4**. Pirskanen does not specifically disclose *wherein a value for a field named "Reason for cell update" in the Cell Update message is set as "For MBMS channel parameters"*. However, in a related field of endeavor, Park discloses using cell update message to obtain a response message (i.e. cell update confirm message) comprising at least information element related to the physical channel information (e.g. channel parameters) regarding a network (see at least Park column 12 lines 57-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen and Ho, to set the reason for cell update message as *"For*

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MBMS channel parameters" in order to obtains a response message (i.e. cell update confirm message) that contains the channel information necessary for further communication between the UE and the network.

Regarding **claim 8** (currently amended), Pirskanen and Ho discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1** or **3**, and **4**. Pirskanen further discloses whether to use a PTP channel or a PTM channel (i.e. *MBMS channel parameters*) for communication the UE depends network (e.g. operator resource) (see at least paragraph [0006]).

Pirskanen does not specifically disclose *wherein the value for the field named "Reason for cell update" in the Cell Update message is set as "For MBMS PtP mode"*. In a related field of endeavor, Park discloses using cell update message to obtain a response message (i.e. cell update confirm message) comprising at least information element related to the physical channel information (e.g. channel parameters) regarding a network (see at least Park column 12 lines 57-67). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen and Ho, to set the reason for cell update message as *"For MBMS PtP mode"* in order to obtains a response message (i.e. cell update confirm message) that contains the channel information (e.g. using PtP or PtM) necessary for further communication between the UE and the network.

7. **Claims 10** and **12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirskanen in view of US 7433334 B2 Marjelund et al. (hereinafter Marjelund).

Regarding **claim 10** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1** or **5**, and **6**. Pirskanen does not specifically disclose *wherein a value for a field named "Reason for connection establishment" in the RRC Connection*

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Request message is set as "MBMS channel parameter". However, Pirskanen however discloses either a PtP channel or a PtM channel can be used for data communication with the UE (see at least paragraph [0005]). In a related field of endeavor, Marjelund discloses the cause for establishing a link (i.e. the reason) are mandatory information elements included in a RRC connection request message (see at least Marjelund column 7 lines 48-55). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view of Marjelund to set the reason for connection establishment in the RRC connection request as "MBMS channel parameter", in order to obtain a response (e.g. a RRC connection setup message, which is well known in the art) that contains information regarding the channel to be used for further communication.

Regarding **claim 12** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of claim **1 or 5, and 6**. Pirskanen does not specifically disclose *wherein the value for the field named "Reason for connection Establishment" in the RRC*

Connection Request message is set as "For MBMS UE counting". Pirskanen however discloses requesting RCC connection establishment in order to facilitate the counting of UEs (see at least paragraph [0017]). In a related field of endeavor, Marjelund discloses the cause for establishing a link (i.e. the reason) are mandatory information elements included in a RRC connection request message (see at least Marjelund column 7 lines 48-55). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view of Marjelund to set the reason for connection establishment in the RRC connection request as "For *MBMS UE counting*", in order to facilitate the counting of UEs. .

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8. **Claims 11** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirskanen in view of US 7031694 B2 Koulakiotis et al. (hereinafter Koulakiotis), and further in view of Marjelund.

Regarding **claim 11** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1 or 5**, and **6**. Pirskanen does not specifically disclose *wherein the value for the field named "Reason for connection establishment" in the RRC Connection Request is set as "MBMS PtP mode"*. Pirskanen however discloses either a PtP channel or a PtM channel can be used for data communication with the UE (see at least paragraph [0005]). In a related field of endeavor, Koulakiotis discloses providing user the option to receive information (e.g. MBMS data) on dedicated channel (i.e. PtP) or a common channel. (i.e. PtM). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view of Koulakiotis to give a user the option to choose between PtP or PtM in order to create different business modes (see at least Koulakiotis column 2 lines 18-26). Additionally, Marjelund discloses the cause for establishing a link (i.e. the reason) are mandatory information elements included in a RRC connection request message (see at least Marjelund column 7 lines 48-55). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view of Koulakiotis, and further in view of Marjelund to set the reason for connection establishment in the RRC connection request as "*MBMS PtP mode*", in order to request a PtP mode connection.

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9. **Claims 13** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirskanen in view of US 20020110106 A1 Koo et al.(hereinafter Koo), and US 20030003895 A1 Wallentin et al. (hereinafter Wallentin).

Regarding **claim 13** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1**. Pirskanen further discloses a connected mode CELL_FACH mode (see at least paragraph [0011]). Pirskanen still further discloses the reason for uplink signaling is for MBMS UE counting (see at least Figure 2 item 6 and 7).

Pirskanen is however silent as to the limitation *sending a downlink signaling by the RNC to make the UE enter CELL_FACH state if a reason for sending said uplink signaling included in said uplink signaling is set as "For MBMS UE counting"*. In a related field of endeavor, Koo discloses sending a downlink signaling by a RNC to make the UE enter a connected mode from an idle mode (see at least Koo paragraph [0026]); and Wallentin discloses that in CELL_FACH mode, the UE continuous listens to a common channel (see at least Wallentin paragraph [0016]). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view of Koo and Wallentin to put the UE in CELL_FACH after sending uplink signaling for MBMS UE counting, in order to facilitate subsequent processing (e.g. receiving a confirmation, see at least Pirskanen Figure 2 item 8).

10. **Claims 14-15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirskanen in view of Koulakiotis, and further in view of Marjelund and US 6850759 B2 Van Lieshout et al. (hereinafter Van).

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Regarding **claim 14** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1**. Pirskanen is silent as to *sending a Radio Link Establishment Request message by a SRNC to a DRNC if an Iur interface exists and the reason for cell update included in said uplink signaling is set as is "For MBMS PtP mode"*.

In a related field of endeavor, Koulakiotis discloses providing user the option to receive information (e.g. MBMS data) on dedicated channel (i.e. PtP) or a common channel. (i.e. PtM). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view of Koulakiotis to give a user the option to choose between PtP or PtM in order to create different business modes (see at least Koulakiotis column 2 lines 18-26). Additionally, Marjelund discloses the cause for establishing a link (i.e. the reason) as mandatory information elements included in a RRC connection request message (see at least Marjelund column 7 lines 48-55). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view of Koulakiotis, and further in view of Marjelund to set the reason for connection establishment in the RRC connection request as "*MBMS PtP mode*", in order to request a PtP mode connection.

Additionally, in a related field of endeavor, Van discloses a SRNC and a DRNC and a Iur interface between the SRNC and DRNC (see at least Figure 1 and column 2 lines 30-34, 40-43 and 53-62, where Van further teach that a SRNC is in charge of the radio connection with the UE, and has full control of the radio connection within the RAN, and is connect to the core network, where as a DRNC supports the SRNC by supplying radio resources to the UE). Therefore, in order to establish a PtP mode channel with a UE served by a DRNC controlled by a SRNC, It would have been obvious to a person

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ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen, Koulakiotis and Marjelund in view of Van to send a radio link establishment request by the SRNC to the DRNC to request the DRNC to setup a PtP channel with the UE.

Regarding **claim 15** (currently amended), Pirskanen, Koulakiotis, Marjelund and Van discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1** and **14**. Pirskanen does not specifically disclose *adding the UE into the context of the MBMS by the DRNC to by adding a number of the participating UEs by 1 after receiving the Radio Link Establishment Request message, and if the increase of the number of participating UEs makes a channel type of the MBMS change from PtP to PtM, the DRNC sending a Radio Link Establishment Failure message to the SRNC.*

Pirskanen However discloses that the decision to serve the UE either via PtP or PtM channel mode as dependent on the number of UE supported by a cell, and that there could be a threshold value x used to make such decision (see at least paragraph [0007], where Pirskanen teach if the number of UEs is less than x, then use PtP, or else use PtM). Pirskanen further discloses the counting of UE (see at least Figure 2). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art that an increment of number of UEs by 1 could make the RNC to switch from PtP mode to PtM mode, thus the RNC would fail to serve the UE requesting the PtP type service. Pirskanen however does not mention a SRNC or DRNC.

Van discloses a SRNC and a DRNC and a Iur interface between the SRNC and DRNC (see at least Van Figure 1 and column 2 lines 30-34, 40-43 and 53-62, where Van further teach that a SRNC is in charge of the radio connection with the UE, and has full

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control of the radio connection within the RAN, and is connect to the core network, where as a DRNC supports the SRNC by supplying radio resources to the UE , thereby adding the UE into the context of service by the DRNC). Therefore, in order to notify the SRNC the service status (i.e. failed to receive PtP type services) of a UE, It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen, Koulakiotis and Marjelund in view of Van to send a radio link establishment failure message by the DRNC to the SRNC for further processing.

11. **Claim 16** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pirskanen in view US 20040266447 A1 Terry (hereinafter Terry), and further in view of Van.

Regarding **claim 16** (currently amended), Pirskanen discloses the limitations as shown in the rejection of **claim 1**. Pirskanen is silent as to *keeping the UE in CELL_FACH state and sending a Common Transport Channel Resource Initialization message to the DRNC by the SRNC if the lur interface exists and the SRNC knows that the destination cell under the DRNC uses PtM as the channel type of the MBMS.*

In a related field of endeavor, Terry teaches that PtM services are carried out on a FACH channel (thus, a UE receiving data is kept in CELL_FACH state). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen in view Terry in to keep the UE in CELL_FACH state in order to facilitate the PtM type service.

Additionally, Van discloses a *Common Transport Channel Resource Initialization* procedure between a SRNC and a DRNC having a lur interface (see at least Van Figure 1 and column 2 lines 30-34, 40-43 and 53-62). Van further teaches that the *Common*

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Transport Channel Resource Initialization procedure is carried out when a UE moves into a cell under DRNC, and the UE is to use common channel (i.e. FACH channel as taught by Terry) in the new cell (see at least Van column 5 lines 4-25). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Pirskanen and Terry in view of Van in order to facilitate PtM type services in the situation where a UE is served by a DRNC controlled by a SRNC.

Response to Arguments

12. Applicant's arguments filed on 5/04/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding **claim 1**, Applicant asserts that the MBMS Notification "Counting Stopped" message (see at least Pirskanen paragraph [0057] and Fig. 2) is not *a response message received in response to an uplink signaling* initiated by the UE 200, because this message is broadcasted to all UEs (see Applicant's remarks page 7). The Examiner respectfully disagrees.

The Examiner points to the cited portion of Pirskanen, where it is clearly shown that the MBMS Notification "Counting Stopped" (Fig. 2 item 8) message is received (by the UE) in response to an uplink signaling (Fig.2 item 7, which is sent from the UE to the RNC, therefore an uplink signaling) initiated by the UE.

The Examiner first notes that the Applicant points to the Background section (paragraph [0018] of Pirskanen) for support of Applicant's assertion, while the Examiner has cited paragraph [0057] of Pirskanen, wherein the specific embodiment taught by Pirskanen

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does not specifically teach the MBMS Notification "Courting Stopped" as being broadcasted to all UEs, instead it is sent "to the UE 200".

Without conceding to the validity of Applicant's assertion, assuming that the MBMS notification "Counting Stopped" is broadcasted to all UEs, it is nonetheless a response message to the uplink signaling, as required by claim 1 (i.e. a broadcast message is not mutually exclusive to a response message).

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YU (Andy) GU whose telephone number is (571)270-7233. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester G. Kincaid can be reached on 5712727922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/YU (Andy) GU/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/George Eng/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617